

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 AID-05

COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 /047 W

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R 131010Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1017

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT REFUSES TO GRANT STUDENT'S CALL FOR
OPEN ADMISSION POLICY FOR UNIVERSITIES

1. STUDENTS WHO WERE REQUIRED TO TAKE APTITUDE TESTS NOVEMBER
7/8 FOR ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITIES REFUSED TO TAKE THE EXAM-
INATIONS IN FOUR INSTITUTIONS IN LISBON AND OPORTO, OUT OF A
TOTAL OF SOME THIRTY INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL WHERE THE
EXAMINATION WAS OFFERED. STUDENTS DEMANDED THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN OPEN ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR THE UNIVERSITIES.

2. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE REPLIED IN OFFICIAL
COMMUNICATION NOVEMBER 11 THAT LIMITED ADMISSIONS POLICY REMAINS
NECESSARY DUE TO THE INABILITY OF PORTUGUESE UNIVERSITIES TO
COPE WITH THE ESTIMATED 15,000 STUDENTS IN EXCESS OF CAPACITY.
IN EFFECT, STUDENTS WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE GIVEN ONE MORE
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE EXAMINATION BUT IF THEY DID NOT DO SO
THEY WOULD BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE OPTED NOT TO TRY FOR
UNIVERSITY ADMITTANCE THIS YEAR. MINISTER OF LABOR COSTA MARTINS
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OFFERED STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO "BUILD A NEW NATION" BY

WORKING ON PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS IF THEY COULD NOT OBTAIN
UNIVERSITY ADMISSION.

3. COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMPT AND FIRM PUT-DOWN TO
THE STRIKING STUDENTS IS AN INDICATION THAT IT IS NOT ABOUT
TO ALLOW ITS ALREADY OVERCROWDED UNIVERSITIES TO BE BURDENED
WITH ADDITIONAL MARGINALLY-PREPARED AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED
STUDENTS.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

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